

**From:** Fred (038) Bev Hartline  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 10:27pm  
**Subject:** comment on Microsoft settlement

Dear DOJ:

Please include these comments in the public comments on the Microsoft antitrust settlement.

I have been a computer user, computer professional, and educator since before the beginning of the microcomputer revolution. During the first few years following the birth of IBM's "PC", Microsoft played an important and beneficial role in the blossoming of the computer revolution.

Unfortunately for the past decade or so, Microsoft's role has been DETRIMENTAL to the growth and development of free trade and innovation in the computer and software industries. Microsoft has worked actively to cripple and suppress promising innovations and technologies that might jeopardize it's role as the "owner" of the software & operating systems markets.

This anti-competitive behavior has prevented the development of software standards that would allow machines from different platforms to work seamlessly together. Indeed Microsoft has worked hard to derail any such efforts and corrupt cross platform standards in such a way that it is extremely difficult to use non Microsoft products with Microsoft-installed machines.

My sense is that the only possibly effective way to deal with this monopolistic juggernaut would be to separate software-applications and operating-system components into separately run (and owned) companies. This remedy would give MS-Applications Co. incentive to develop products that work well on all platforms. AND MS-Operating-Systems Co. would have an incentive to make a stable reliable OS that works well with applications from all other software companies.

Any agreement which bolsters the market share of Microsoft applications and operating systems does not address the problem. Diversity and competition are ESSENTIAL in any health market. The computer systems market is NOT competitive, and NOT HEALTHY. There is very little diversity & competition in office and business software, and in desktop and laptop operating. systems. Because of this, although computational power and digital storage capacity each has risen more than a thousand-fold in the past 25 years, our "office applications" provide only a few additional features and capabilities. The lack of competition has allowed Microsoft to force mediocre, inefficient, insecure products on every owner of Intel compatible computers-- I myself have had to PAY FOR Microsoft system software to be discarded immediately so I could use the machine with a non Microsoft OS. Microsoft has THAT MUCH power over

the machine manufacturers.

We, the Public, depend on the DOJ to defend the public interest in this and every matter of corporate misbehavior. You have NOT provided a reasonable resolution of Microsoft's monopolistic anticompetative behavior. PLEASE reconsider your actions and reopen the consideration of remedies in this case. The US public deserves a more favorable settlement.

Thank you for reconsidering.

Sincerely

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